

SITUATION REPORT NO. 13
INCIDENT NO. 2005-075
DATE: June 20, 2005 Time: 5:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER: Severe Summer Storms and Flooding** – Governor John Hoeven has issued an emergency declaration for severe thunderstorms that have produced abnormal amounts of rainfall, hail and high winds throughout the state and continued flooding in the Devils Lake Basin, beginning April 9 and continuing.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** On June 19 during a severe storm, a camper in the Walhalla area of Pembina County was injured when a tree fell on the tent in which he was sleeping. The man was taken to the Cavalier hospital and transferred to Grand Forks.
3. **DAMAGES:** The Bismarck and Grand Forks Offices of the National Weather Service (NWS) have forecasted statewide severe thunderstorms throughout the week of June 20. Flood warnings still remain in effect for several rivers throughout North Dakota as a result of recent heavy bouts of rainfall and current levels of soil saturation. These rivers include the James, the Red, the Sheyenne, the Maple, the Wild Rice and the Souris.

A thunderstorm that plowed through North Dakota early June 19 caused significant damage to 30.9 miles of a Great River Energy transmission line. Approximately 230 transmission structures were destroyed or damaged on a 230-kilovolt (kV) line from just southeast of Balta in Pierce County to just northwest of Minnewaukan in Benson County. The downed line caused some local outages when it fell on top of local distribution lines. The local distribution lines were cleared on June 19 and are back in service. Crews have been on site cleaning up the debris since the morning of June 19.

The State Operations Center (SOC) received the following reports of storm activity from local emergency managers and agricultural officials:

Benson County

The County Emergency Manager reported a severe thunderstorm with high winds went through the Harlow and Baker areas on June 19, causing downed power lines and toppling grain bins.

Cavalier County

On June 19, the County Emergency Manager reported damage in an area 11 miles north of Langdon to 12 miles south of Nekoma and stretching from Alsen to Osnabrock resulted in electrical outages and extensive damages.

Cavalier Rural Electric reported widespread power outages with failures at their six substations leaving approximately 1,450 homes without power and 50 broken power poles. Five of these substations were reestablished the evening of July 19.

Reports of tree damage is varied from small branch debris to the uprooting of trees two feet in diameter. The Emergency Manager also reported that a barn that housed numerous specialty horses was destroyed in the Osnabrock area. Numerous steel grain bins and Quonset buildings were destroyed and several more damaged, including a commercial grain elevator.

The Emergency Manager reported spring rains have caused ponding and surface flooding which has reduced the stability of roads, washed aggregate, and damaged culverts and bridges. Agricultural seeding, spraying and related field efforts have also been prevented by the adverse weather.

Cavalier County has 40 townships and three unincorporated villages. Sixteen townships had reported damages to their roads. Seventy-six additional damage sites have been identified on county roads, for a combined total of county and township sites currently at 383. The highway supervisor indicated these sites are less than half the total damages that will eventually be reported.

Grand Forks County

On June 20, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) County Emergency Board (CEB) met to develop a damage flash situation report regarding damages caused by severe storms and excessive rainfall. The rains have continued almost daily since June 1, resulting in more than 130,000 acres of prevented planted crops and drowned crops. Estimates are 101,600 acres of cropland will not be planted and 28,318 acres damaged due to flooding and standing water. Acreage south of N.D. Highway 2 appears to be suffering the most from prevented planting but crop failure and reduced yield potential is apparent throughout the entire county.

Pembina County

On June 19, the County Emergency Manager reported that a severe thunderstorm with high winds had occurred in the St. Thomas, Crystal, Walhalla, Neche, Bathgate, Osnabrock, Hamilton and Pembina areas causing widespread power outages due to power lines being down. This further disrupted sump pump operations in several homes.

A portion of a barn roof was blown away west of Neche. Metal trim on the roof of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Pembina was twisted. In Hensel, a chimney was blown over at a residence. Part of the roof was ripped off of the Osnabrock Fire Department building. Additional damages included numerous trees being toppled, blocking the emergency route in Walhalla.

The Walhalla Public School sustained significant damage to the roof, which was under repair at the time. There was subsequent flooding in the classrooms because of the holes in the roof.

Initial assessments are underway and Public Works crews are clearing debris off roads. Nursing homes in the area have power due to backup generators. Numerous generators were obtained from surrounding communities to assist with operating lift stations in the areas without power. Some rural residents are still without power due to downed power lines.

County officials are very concerned about the impact of power outages on private residents. Most residential sump pumps are operating, many farmsteads have generators; there are still many people with no backup power. The Walhalla Nursing Home is operating on a backup generator system. Attempts are being made to contact Hensel about staging their generator in Walhalla for their lift stations.

Ramsey County

On June 19, the County Emergency Manager indicated that a severe thunderstorm with high winds struck the city of Starkweather, causing power outages due to downed power lines. The city lift station is down and several residential basements have water inundation. Straight-line winds removed a roof off a local business. Numerous trees were uprooted, and there is heavy grain elevator and Quonset building damage in the area as well. In the Hampden area, several agricultural buildings were damaged and destroyed, as well as trees being uprooted. In the Garske area, three large grain bins, a local grain elevator and several homes received damage; high winds also uprooted several trees.

Throughout the county, several thousands of acres of farm crops and shelter belts have been damaged. Many farmsteads and rural areas have residential damage and structural concerns are being addressed on several Quonsets.

Stark County

On June 19, the County Emergency Manager reported that high winds up to 70 mph and golf ball to baseball size hail struck Dickinson. Many homes and businesses sustained damage to windows and siding in addition to several vehicles and vehicle windows being damaged. A carnival located in Dickinson sustained extensive damage.

Officials indicated hail three inches in size and wind speeds of 80 to 90 mph, ripping siding on numerous buildings as well as peeling complete walls from their foundations. Trees, power poles and power lines were downed.

River Statements

River forecasts from the NWS, based on current observations, are as follows:

River	Flood Stage	Last Report	Comments
Red River at Wahpeton	10 feet	9.07 feet @ 11:00 a.m. June 20	Crested, river trend is falling
Red River at Fargo	17 feet	27.41 feet @ 11:00 a.m. June 20	Crest @ 27.4 feet on June 19-20
Red River at East Grand Forks	28 feet	39.28 feet @ 11:45 a.m. June 20	Cresting
Red River at Oslo	28 feet	35.24 feet @ 11:15 a.m. June 20	Cresting
Red River at Drayton	32 feet	36.18 feet @ 12:00 p.m. June 20	Crest @ 36.7 feet on June 22
Red River at Pembina	42 feet	41.33 feet @ 8:00 a.m. June 20	Crest @ 43.2 feet on June 23
Maple River at Mapleton	902 feet	903.77 feet @ 11:30 a.m. June 20	Crested, river trend is falling
Sheyenne River at West Fargo	16.5 feet	17.0 feet @ 8:45 a.m. June 20	Crested, river trend is falling
Sheyenne River at Harwood	884 feet	886.68 feet @ 8:00 a.m. June 20	Crested, river trend is falling
James River at Ludden Dam	12 feet	12.81 feet @ 10:45 a.m. June 20	Crested, river trend is falling
James River at Oakes	93 feet	93.94 feet @ 10:30 a.m. June 20	Crested, river trend is falling
Wild Rice River at Abercrombie	10 feet	7.78 feet @ 9:45 a.m. June 20	Crest @ 11.5 feet on June 24
Souris River at Westhope	10 feet	9.93 feet @ 10:00 a.m. June 20	Crested, river trend is falling

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No changes from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No changes from previous reports.

- 5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS:** Officials for Cass and Dickey Counties have activated their Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) since the beginning of the severe summer storm cycle. The teams have been assisting with flooding needs to include sandbagging. In Dickey County, the CERT teams set up shelters.
- 6. MAJOR ACTIONS:** Great River Energy is currently conducting system flow studies to determine the reliability impact of the downed electrical transmission lines. It may take as long as eight months to rebuild the 30 miles of destroyed transmission facilities. Clean up should take approximately three-to-four weeks.

Cavalier County

The City of Langdon obtained permission from the N.D. Department of Health to release extra water from the waste water plant to allow the lift stations to remain functional.

McLean County

The county has declared an emergency as a result of severe summer storm activity.

Pembina County

Social Services personnel were making arrangements for sheltering, if the need arises, at a local Cavalier hotel. Individuals in need of sheltering are to call the Sheriff's office at 265-4122.

The County Emergency Manager reported that a Public Service Announcement (PSA) was issued for residents to conserve water to ensure the lift stations can keep up with the demand. A press release was also issued asking residents to report either flood and/or high wind damages to the Tax Director or the Walhalla City Auditor.

County Public Works, as well as fire and public works departments in Walhalla, Neche, and Pembina, are conducting damage assessments and debris removal. Power was restored to St. Thomas, Bathgate, Hensel and Crystal around noon on June 19. Walhalla City Public Works crews secured a generator to operate a lift station. Volunteers from the Walhalla Fire Department are assisting in the procurement of several generators to operate power at the local restaurant to save food supplies, as well as being prepared for other food storage sites in town.

Stark County

In the Dickinson area, crews for Montana Dakota Utilities and West Plains Rural Power were restoring power.

Steele County

The city of Finley has declared an emergency as a result of storm impacts.

7. **ASSISTANCE NEEDED**: No change from previous reports.
8. **OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE**: Local power companies and telephone cooperatives are repairing their infrastructure.
9. **OTHER INFORMATION**: The NWS lists quantitative precipitation forecasts on its website: www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/qpf2.shtml.

The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Susan Reinertson, Director
N.D. Division of Homeland Security